

WRESTLING FORUM

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VOLUME 5

ISSUE 21

WRESTLING'S BEST KEPT SECRET!

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WE NEED A TRANSFUSION!

THE LIFE BLOOD OF ANY wrestling publication is its readers. That is especially true when it comes to an underground publication like Wrestling Forum. Without you all sitting out there reading this, there'd be no one to send it out to. There would be no one to send in reports on matches they had attended. There would be no one out there to participate in reader polls. In other words, the wrestling bulletin business would not exist without you.

FROM TIME TO TIME WE get complacent with ourselves. We figure that someone will write in with the results of the matches we just went to. We figure that someone else will send a letter chastising an opinion that differs from their own. We figure that there will be enough voters in the Barometer so that ours won't be missed. In other words, we stop participating.

IN RECENT MONTHS I have noticed a steady decline in almost everything we try to incorporate. While our readership is still at a respectable level, participation is way down. We're hurting for letters. We're hurting for Barometer ballots. We're hurting for results. We're hurting for tournament votes.

I UNDERSTAND WHY some of our readers don't participate. They feel they aren't "experts." Well, to tell you the truth, no one is an expert on wrestling. Not me, not Ed Garea, not Bill Apter, nor anyone else. All we do is compile what other readers send to us and then translate it into something that is sometimes readable. But if people quit sending in stuff, then we're sunk. See, you know what you like; you're an expert on that. And that's all it takes for you to participate in any one of the many reader participation features that we have.

WHAT'S REALLY SCARY about the whole situation is that we are about to begin our *fifth annual awards* in this very issue. We need your votes badly. Without your votes, there won't be a yearbook. It's that plain and simple. The record for number of voters is 94. I would like to top that record this year. But that's up to you.

SO KICK BACK, GRAB some munchies and a soda and take the time to participate in this year's awards. Granted, it's gonna take some time to do and as an added incentive, we'll be giving a small discount on the yearbook to anyone who takes the time to vote. We figure it's the least we can do for those who are ultimately writing it anyway.

THIS IS WRESTLING FORUM and we publish on the 15th and 30th of each month. Cost per issue is \$1.50 and you may subscribe for up to six months worth at one time. All renewals, letters, results, and other pertinent information may be sent to us at **WRESTLING FORUM, BOX 65, KNOXVILLE, IL 61448** unless otherwise specifically mentioned.

WELL, AS YOU CAN SEE, the problems we had in getting the computer are over. Now the problems running the damn thing have just begun! We are not going to be transferring our subscription files to the computer until after the first of the year, so we'll still be using the old-fashioned red and green labels until then. We tried to transfer a few and it caused more problems than it was worth, so until things slow down, we'll wait.

NEXT ISSUE MAY BE JUST a little later than normal. Not only will we be reporting on the Survivors Series and a Saturday Night's Main Event out of the WWF, the NWA will be having a Clash that same week. Combine that with the fact that the book I've been working on for the last nine months has an absolute deadline of November 30 and you can see how hectic the next two weeks are going to be around here.

ONE MORE THING... YOU may have noticed that last issue (and this one for that matter) are a little shorter than usual. Literally. The page is 1/8th of an inch shorter. That's because the post office didn't think I was having enough problem to contend with so they called to say that all the bulletins were too heavy and that we were going to have to come up with an extra 20¢ on each of them. Rather than do that, our printer has agreed to chop off an eighth of an inch which will put them under the weight limit. What next?!?

FIFTH ANNUAL WRESTLING FORUM TOURNAMENT

by Sean Grande

THERE WAS NO PROBLEM getting people to cast their votes in the second round of tournament! Twenty eight votes were cast and here are the results, complete with a few upsets:

Barry Windham faked out Demolition Crush 21-7
 Jushin Riger drove over Eddie Gilbert 15-13
 Jumbo Tsuruta squeaked by Akira Maeda 14-13 (1 draw)
 Bret Hart pounded Tommy Rogers 27-1
 Owen Hart crushed Tony Atlas 27-1
 Kerry Von Erich surprised Road Warrior Animal 14-13 (1 draw)
 Lex Luger muscled past Bob Orton 26-2
 Scott Steiner blasted Genichiro Tenryu 21-5 (2 draws)
 Randy Savage beat Yoshinori Kawada 26-2
 Jake Roberts DDT'd Jerry Lawler 14-12 (2 draws)
 Paul Orndorff slipped by Larry Zbyszko 17-10 (1 draw)
 Bobby Eaton flew past Shane Douglas 18-9 (1 draw)
 Sting annihilated Kengo Kimura 26-1 (1 draw)
 Arn Anderson dropped Bad News Brown 24-4
 Rick Rude rolled over Chris Adams 15-13
 Curt Hennig perfected Roddy Piper 15-12 (1 draw)
 Ric Flair jailed Bossman 20-6 (2 draws)
 Riki Choshu eliminated Brad Armstrong 15-12 (1 draw)
 Terry Gordy strutted by Rick Martel 18-10
 Tito Santana upset Steve Williams 18-10
 Hulk Hogan handled Samoan Fatu 23-5
 Rick Steiner blasted Kazuo Yamazaki 26-2
 Bam Bam Bigelow ousted Masa Saito 19-9
 Rick Steamboat *shutout* Jacques Rougeau 28-0
 Great Muta ripped Stan Lane 23-5
 Ultimate Warrior shocked Ron Simmons 14-13 (1 draw)
 Tully Blanchard limped past Tetsumi Fujinami 17-10 (1 draw)
 Stan Hansen hi-yooo'd Jim Duggan 23-5
 Road Warrior Hawk survived Tiger Mask 17-9 (2 draws)
 Nobuhiko Takada edged Lizmark 14-12 (2 draws)
 Pat Tanaka and Big Van Vader battled to a 14-14 tie (both eliminated)
 Ted DiBiase doomed Butch Reed 26-2

THAT LEAVES US WITH THESE MATCH UPS FOR ROUND THREE (Seeds are parenthesis):

(1) Barry Windham vs (32) Jushin Riger
 Jumbo Tsuruta vs (16) Bret Hart
 (9) Owen Hart vs Kerry Von Erich
 (25) Lex Luger vs Scott Steiner
 (5) Randy Savage vs Jake Roberts
 Paul Orndorff vs (17) Bobby Eaton
 (13) Sting vs (20) Arn Anderson
 Rick Rude vs (4) Curt Hennig
 (3) Ric Flair vs (30) Riki Choshu
 (19) Terry Gordy vs Tito Santana
 (11) Hulk Hogan vs (22) Rick Steiner
 Bam Bam Bigelow vs (8) Ricky Steamboat
 (7) Great Muta vs (26) Ultimate Warrior
 Tully Blanchard vs (10) Stan Hansen
 (15) Road Warrior Hawk vs Nobuhiko Takada

TO VOTE IN THIS ROUND, pick the wrestlers that you would have winning. Jot down your choices on a postcard or in a letter and send them to:

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I·N·D·E·P·D·E·N·T·L·Y S·P·E·A·K·I·N·G

UNIVERSAL WRESTLING FEDERATION

THE LATEST SET OF UWF tapings were done this past Thursday night, 11/8/90 in Los Angeles. The taping was marred by a shoot incident that still has some people, myself included, questioning the sanity of one of the persons involved.

THE INCIDENT OCCURRED DURING Paul Orndorff's squash match with Tim Patterson. Steve "Dr. Death" Williams did a run in and everything was going fine with the angle until Steve grabbed a chair and gave the referee a really good head shot with it. The chair caught the ref square on top of the head with a resounding "thunk", but the ref didn't go down. He just stood there with his eyes popping out. Steve hit him again and the ref went bonkers, forgetting about the TV cameras, forgetting about this being play acting and went after Williams! Doc tried to hit him in the head with the chair a few more time, but the ref (who is reportedly around 5' 10, 200 lbs) kept blocking the shiar with his arms and grabbing at Williams' hair. Steve began retaliating and it ended up in a pull apart for real. The ref at one point had hold of Doc's legs and was trying to pull his feet out from under him. Cooler heads prevailed as both men were held back from each other and finally led to the back.

I'VE TALKED WITH THREE PEOPLE who saw the taping, and all three agree that this was the real thing. It was like the ref snapped when the first shot caught him so good and he just went nuts. Williams is considered by most to be one of the legitimately toughest wrestlers in the world and you have to question the sanity of someone half his size who wants a piece of him. You've also got to admire the guy's guts.

THE REST OF THE CARD WAS MAINLY squash matches with the only other angles or main event type matches being shot being Billy Jack Haynes getting a DQ win over Colonel DeBeers, Nikita Koloff winning by DQ over Ken Patera, and Cactus Jack and Jack Armstrong beating Jay Strongbow and David Sammartino by pinfall.

AFTER DEBEERS' MATCH, HE BEAT up the referee assigned to the match (he was black) after he had DQ'd the colonel.

JOHN TOLOS, A BIG, BIG HEEL FROM Los Angeles in the 60's was on hand and it was announced that he will manage Bob Orton. They did a run in following a B. Brian Blair match. Honey, Blair's valet/manager used the stinger (an electronic cattle prod) on Tolos, but Orton grabbed her and headbutted her which drew some of the best heat of the night.

WILDTHING, A NEWCOMER, and we have no idea who it is, got the best reaction of the night, but that may have been from the fact that he had about twenty friends and family members in the audience.

ALSO APPEARING WAS AWA champ, Larry Zbyszko who worked two squash matches. He was not announced as such, but he did have the belt which he displayed after the first squash, but not the second.

YOU HAVE TO WONDER ABOUT Herb Abrams' promoting

philosophy here. He's trying to get a big break for his promotion, yet when he tapes, he does twenty-one matches, only three of which could be considered (remotely) main event status. He needs good ratings to continue his contract with SportsChannel and he needs to build interest for when he starts doing live shows. I know that you don't dare give away too much on TV, but unless they break down and start having something besides squashes on TV, I'm afraid this promotion won't last much more than the initial thirteen week trial period.

OTHER INDEPENDENTS...

LAST ISSUE WE REPORTED THAT Larry Cameron was not allowed to wrestle for Rob Russen's IWA in New Jersey due to irregularities in his EKG. Russen has passed along a little more information to us on the story. Any promotion that does a show in New Jersey is required by the state to pay \$36.00 per wrestler for insurance. It seems that the New Jersey Control Board wanted Cameron to see a cardiologist and undergo a stress test, however the insurance that is purchased through the Board will not cover these tests. This is an expense that we were unaware of. It's no wonder that Vince McMahon has gone as far as he has to have wrestling deregulated in that state. Rob also reports that this insurance is higher than other states that they promote in.

ALSO FROM THE IWA, RUSSEN, JULES Stongbow, and Brandi Mae (the Farmer's Daughter) will appear in Las Vegas at the IAFE fair convention towards the end of the month in hopes of booking a few fair dates around the country for the coming season.

CHRIS LOVE IS PUTTING TOGETHER a show on Thanksgiving night in Witita, KS featuring a combination of those who last worked for the AWA and/or Geigel. Scheduled are the Destruction Crew (why doesn't someone pick these guys up?) vs the Trooper and Wahco McDaniel, Mike George vs Ray Stevens (still billed as "the Crippler") plus Porkchop Cash, Tom Pritchard, Ken Wayne and a 20 man battle royal.

GEORGE SCOTT'S NORTH AMERICAN Wrestling Alliance is all but belly up. Matt Borne quit the group and Steamboat's not working regularly and we understand they haven't drawn more than 100 fans in about six weeks. You can't stay in business long using those numbers.

WINDY CITY WRESTLING IS RUNNING four shows during the month of December in and around the Chicagoland area. On December 1, they will be doing a benefit show in Oak Lawn where admission is a new toy. They will tape another set of shows for TV on the 22nd in Harvard, IL and that will feature a cage match for the championship. The Untouchables have won the Tag team belts, though we can't tell you where, when or how.

WINDY CITY HAS JUST GOTTEN ANOTHER TV outlet as well. US Cable in Northwest Indiana will be carrying their show on Thursday nights at 9:00 pm.

PENCIL POINTS

EARLY DIPSTICK NOMINEE

Nick Busick (Georgia All Star Wrestling) is a great guy, but he did something the other night that made me ashamed. Georgia All Star Wrestling was supposed to be in a benefit last Friday night to feed the homeless. They announced it on their program a couple of times on the Saturday before, but that was it. No posters, no newspaper ads. Friday night comes and maybe ten fans show up. The event was cancelled.

Joe Pedicino wasn't there, so I guess Nick was in charge. He started to demand money from the lady sponsoring the event. I'm not sure what the deal was, but I think Nick and the other wrestlers were supposed to get \$1200 up front. The lady didn't have the money and I guess she felt she didn't have to pay because the event was cancelled. Nick and a couple other wrestlers abused her verbally until they got a signed statement from her saying that they will be paid.

All of this was happening in front of everyone there. That poor lady was almost in tears. She was trying to help the homeless and did not deserve to be treated that way. She kept telling everyone how sorry she was when she was handing out refunds.

I feel this kind of behavior gives wrestling a bad name. If Pedicino had been there, I know he could have worked something out.

••NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST••

•Atlanta, GA•

PHANTOM

I enjoyed reading Ed Garea's recounting of the Bruno/Hansen saga in the most recent *Forum*. I became a fan just prior to the start of that feud, and the Shea Stadium card was that era's equivalent of a Wrestlemania. For trivia's sake, the Shea Stadium bout was a regular match won by Bruno via count out. Since Hansen had run out of the ring and into the Mets dugout, a rematch was signed for Madison Square Garden, in a cage. Even more trivial is the fact that Fred Blassie, Hansen's manager, was in Japan with Ali vs Inoki, and the Grand Wizard took Freddie's place at Shea.

••STEVE GENARELLI••

•Melbourne, GA•

The Phantom seems to be getting a little paranoid. Tell him that I read every word he writes. In fact, if the *Forum* was just blank pages with his column in the middle, I would still pay \$1.50 for it.

I wish he would continue his history of the break up of the NWA. Could he tell us what he knows about Carpentier losing the WWA world title to Fred Blassie at the LA Sports Arena (in 59 or 60). How does it all tie in?

I've always thought the AWA treated their fans like fools. They lied every chance they got. They did have two championships; one in Minneapolis and another in Omaha.

Even though my only contact with Stan Hansen comes from watching tapes of him from Japan, AWA and WWF (against Backlund), I'm sticking with my opinion. I think he's gresat. It must have killed you, Jon, to see him pin Luger clean. Do you think Lex would have done a job for anyone he wasn't afraid of? He didn't do one for Flair when the organization really needed it.

••STEVE YOHE••

•Alhambra, CA•

OPEN LETTER TO VINCE MCMAHON

Hey Vince, rumors have it that you're trying to get Jesse Ventura back as a color commentator. He may not be available if he's elected mayor of Brooklyn Park, MN.

With Roddy thinking of returning to an active role in the ring, why not give one of your more popular wrestlers a chance? He may not be able to wrestle, but he might give a big boost to your TV ratings.

I'm talking about Brutus Beefcake. Lines for his personal appearances in Torrance, CA were an hour and a half long just to receive a glossy picture, autographed by the barber. He gets my vote, even though it doesn't count.

Give it some thought- it'll pay in the long run. Let Heenan work Challenge and put the barber on Superstars!

••MARK GROSS••
•Rancho Palos Verdes, CA•

HALLOWEEN HAVOC

NWA fans are going to jump up and down and praise the ending of the Halloween Havoc PPV. They'll praise it to no end for the creativeness used in the finish. Well, using a look-a-like wrestler and using a twin referee as you compared last issue just don't belong in the same category. Especially since the WWF never made any sort of issue out of the twin refs thing.

I didn't like the ending and as far as I'm concerned, it was a cheap way for them to wind up pinning Sid Vicious. Viewers of PPV events are going to get used to screwy endings and not tune in next time. As for myself, I'm headed for a friend's house to watch Starrcade. They're not going to sucker me in for another \$14.95!

••STEVE DECKER••
•Pittsburgh, PA•

I thought the ending of the Sting-Vicious match was a stroke of genius. It ranks right up there with the twin refs angle the WWF did. The match was decent enough, but the ending is what set it apart. I was completely fooled, ever after I watched it on tape a few days later. Whoever it was who impersonated Sting had the part down pat.

••LARRY MASON••
•Chicago, IL•

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

JIM CORNETTE AND STAN LANE have quit the NWA. It happened last Tuesday before the TV taping at Center Stage in Atlanta. Cornette and Ole Anderson argued about the use of the Express and Anderson reportedly told Cornette that if he didn't like things they way they were, he could leave. Cornette did just that and Stan Lane left with him. Bobby Eaton will remain with the NWA for the time being because of financial and family commitments. Jim Herd has asked Eaton to be a liaison between the NWA and Cornette/Lane to see if things could be worked out. If things are, ultimately, they may not be. Ole won't appreciate Herd going over his head to save Jim and Stan and that may result in even more of a reduced push from the minuscule one they were getting. The Express will work their last match together on the Dennis Coraluzzo show that benefits Tom Robinson in Philly on the 11th of this month.

EATON WAS ASKED TO BURY Cornette and Lane on the latest set of tapings during an interview segment, but he refused. He stood up to Ole and explained a couple of foreign concepts to Anderson - loyalty & friendships. There was no further incident.

WERE WE KAY-FABED OR WHAT? As you probably know by now, the fake Sting was none other than Barry Windham. Jim Ross even suggested Windham during the play by play and I dismissed it on account of what I had been told about Windham being AWOL. Windham was gone, but the company knew exactly where he was all the time. The idea for the fake Sting was reportedly Windham's and Ole and company agreed to it. We weren't alone, though. Ole kay fabed wrestlers and other company people as well. One thing about Ole; he knows how to keep a secret.

BUYRATE FIGURES FOR HALLOWEEN Havoc are still trickling in, but our sample companies (put together for me by the local CA-TV outlet) project the national buyrate to be right around 0.8%. Our sampling is usually within one or two decimal points of being right. The gate on the live show was just under \$116,000 according to the State Athletic Commission here in Illinois.

WE MAY HAVE TO STOP CALLING THIS promotion the National Wrestling Alliance. Apparently, there still is an NWA board of directors from when the NWA was made up of several small promotions around the country. These include Jim Crockett and Sam Munchnik and others. Turner's organization has been calling the promotion both the NWA and World Championship Wrestling since purchasing the promotion from Jim Crockett. But now the board members of the NWA are causing a little ruckus over the use of the name. Until the situation is straightened out, probably by a judge somewhere, they will be referring to it on TV as World Championship Wrestling only. Sting will be called the World's Champion instead of the NWA World Champion. As for us, especially since I just spent a bunch of time designing the headings for the different sections of the bulletin, we'll call it the NWA until another group pops up by that name.

THE UPCOMING CLASH OF CHAMPIONS will be featuring a bunch of new talent again. The Nightstalker, who worked a couple of dates for the AWA (gee, come to think of it, that qualifies as a full schedule) and a couple for Ringside Wrestling Promotions out of Clinton, IA, will be in to wrestle Sid Vicious. Nightstalker will be managed by Ox Baker who is responsible for training him. He's not been wrestling more than nine months tops, so combining him with the likes of Sid Vicious may make us yearn for JYD vs Nicolai Volkoff. Actually, Stalker didn't do all that bad of a job for either of promotions he worked for, but with Sid? Come on! Give the kid a break!

ALSO NEW FOR THE CLASH WILL be Magnum Force, a tag team that hasn't been formed yet. Well, it has, but they're still trying to decide whether to use a couple of new guys or the Ring Lords that have already worked a few times for them. Kamala is headed in with a

partner for the show as well. Curtis Hughes, who most recently worked for the AWA and before that for Bob Giegel, will debut as the Big Cat.

THEY ARE REALLY DOING A good job at setting up the Sting-Black Scorpion match for Starrcade. At the Center Stage tapings where Cornette walked out, they did several more things to further mess up Sting's mind. Scorpion's voice is used over the PA system a couple of times while Sting wanders around like it's driving him crazy. In another skit, a guy wearing an old man rubber mask comes out of the audience and attacks Sting. He manages to rip off the rubber mask, but underneath is a wrestling mask. He gets that off too, but the guy covers his face and runs to the back. On the third hour, they use the PA system to distract Sting during one of his matches. He goes to the front row searching for another fake Scorpion, but he can't find one. Just about the time he gives up, a female fan (Peggy Lee Leather) jumps him and she gets taken out by security (by the way, they forgot to tell some security people about it and they thought the incident was a shoot). Head of security Doug Dillinger did an interview where he said that he would be watching extra close to make sure there were no more attacks on Sting. Finally in the show, Sting was attacked by two or three jobbers, but they were fended off by a corps of babyfaces. While they are doing this, the referee who had just worked Sting's match went after Sting and started choking Sting with his referee's shirt. By the time Starrcade rolls around, Ole is going to have one hot angle on his hands.

THE TAG TEAM TOURNAMENT set for Starrcade will have all sorts of teams from around the world wrestling in the one night event. Great Muta has agreed to come back and he'll bring with him Masa Saito (reported as Masa Chono last issue). They also want to have teams representing other countries as well so there will be a German team, a Mexican team (Konan and Mysterio), a French team, a Canadian team, an African team (Kimala and a partner), and a Russian team plus a US team which should be the Steiners. The winner of this tournament will be crowned as the new International Tag Team champions which should replace the US belts (sounds too small when they want to convey a worldwide image).

PRIME TIME BRIAN LEE IS mentioned as being a newcomer. No doubt he's being considered with all the new talent they bring in for the Clashes. This will probably be just a one time shot for him.

NWA/WCW WILL DEBUT IN a couple of new places during December. Omaha, NE and Ames, IA will get their first looks at the NWA. Work continues to replace the lost TV stations when the fall season rolled around.

WITH ALL THE ADVANCES THIS group makes, they still make some giant backwards strides. Recently, they did a swing through Canada and were telling Canadian fans to be sure and watch Halloween Havoc on PPV. Canada does not have Pay Per View capabilities. It wouldn't have been so bad except that they announced it in at least two cities there that I know of. Homework, boys, do your homework!

THEY DID A SKIT WHERE Paul E. Dangerously goes to a pool hall to find Motor City Madman Mike Moore. It was pretty hokey and really stretched the concept of suspending belief. One guy out at work who believes absolutely everything he sees and hears on TV (honest) was even wondering how they got a TV crew to follow Paul E. into a place like that.

WHILE THE CHICAGO BEARS were beating up on the Tampa Bay Buckaneers, the TV announcers were having a tough time finding stuff to talk about to keep up interest in the show. They wound up talking about fullback Brad Muster and how he's such a big wrestling fan. This led to a not too embarrassing discussion of wrestling itself.

WE DON'T HAVE ALL THE details yet, but there appears that there was a major shake up at the TV tapings this past Monday night. Ole Anderson is still the booker as of this writing, but that may change soon after the start of the year. Actually, getting rid of a booker this close to Starrcade would be suicide, but many of the wrestlers are lobbying for certain people to take over once Ole is replaced. Terry Funk is one name that is being brought up more than once, but you have to wonder if he is interested. Another name is Bill Watts, but that name walways comes up when they talk new booker. Dusty Rhodes' name is also being mentioned, but he has a contract with Titan that runs through January. He made enough enemies during his last stay that I wonder if they'd give him a chance.

THE WHOLE PROBLEM with Ole seems to be the disorganization that is running rampant in the NWA. For a long time, the certain cliques that develop in any workplace have been playing Ole against the other. Jim Cornette's walking out may have had a lot to do with these latest set of rumors because apparently the front office is wanting him back. They realize how loyal of an employee he and the Express have been, and even though they weren't getting a push, Herd and friends know how valuable it is to have someone like them around. Just ask Titan about Tito Santana.

ALSO IN, BUT NOT confirmed is the firing of two new guys. JW Stormm may be history, but that's no great loss. Juicer (Art Barr) may also be gone. A lot of his problems stem from the sexual misconduct charges in Oregon where he was found guilty of. Newspapers in the Portland area have criticized the NWA for hiring him, especially since his character appeals to children. Basically Barr lost his job with Don Owen because of the conviction.

FINALLY, HERE'S THE line up for the upcoming Clash as near we have it. There may be some drastic changes by the time it airs live from Jacksonville, FL next week. Juicer vs Landell; Brad Armstrong vs Big Cat (Curtis Hughes); Zenk vs Lee; Rotundo vs Starblazer (Tim Horner); Sgt Kruger & Col. DeClerk vs Kamala & partner; Motor City Madman vs Lex Luger; Sid Vicious vs Nightstalker; Nasty Boys vs Youngbloods; Steiners vs Magnum Force; and Flair or Anderson vs Reed or Simmons with some special stip.

THE PARTICIPANTS IN the final match will be determined by coin flip so it will be one on one (right!). If the Horsemen win, then they get another shot at Doom at Starrcade plus I think Teddy Long has to be their chauffer or something. If Doom win, then they get use of Flair's limo and yacht for a year. They've changed the stips a couple of times so I'm still not quite clear on what they are. Oh well, they probably won't remember what they were two weeks after the match any way

5th Annual Wrestling Forum Year End Awards

BELOW YOU WILL FIND the thirty official categories for our fifth annual year end awards. Before getting into the categories, let's go over some ground rules first:

- ANYONE READING THIS IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE - you need not be a subscriber.
- ALL BALLOTS MUST BE SIGNED - anonymous ballots will not be counted.
- VOTE FOR YOUR TOP THREE CHOICES except in category #2.
- VOTE BY CATEGORY NUMBER IN THE ORDER LISTED
- INCLUDE COMMENTS OR REASONS for your choices if you like. Selected comments will be quoted in the Wrestling Forum Yearbook. Names can be withheld on request.
- CATEGORIES MAY BE SKIPPED if you have no choice. Please be honest with your votes and don't make this a popularity contest between the WWF and NWA. With that, let's take a look at this year's categories:

1. **MAN OF THE YEAR** - This award should go to the man who has had the biggest impact on the sort of wrestling in the past year. It may be a wrestler, manager, promoter, announcer or even a fan. Leading candidates include Vince McMahon, Eddie Gilbert, Eddie Marlin, Herb Abrams and others. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1989: Ric Flair 1988: Ted Turner
2. **WRESTLER OF THE YEAR** - This is a **TOP TEN category!!** Vote for the top ten wrestlers using the following considerations: workrate (50%), interview & charisma (25%) and drawing power (25%). **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1986-1989: Ric Flair
3. **ROOKIE OF THE YEAR** - Rookie status is defined as anyone who started working for a major promotion between October 1989 and present. Leading contenders for the award this year are J. W. Stormm (Jeff Warner), Steve Austin, El Gigante, Art Barr. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1986: Bam Bam Bigelow 1987: Shane Douglas 1988: Scott Steiner 1989: Wayne Bloom
4. **BEST PROMOTION** - Several things to consider here. Live shows, workrate of wrestlers, angles, live gates, profitability, and interest generated. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1986: Watts' UWF 1987 & 88: WWF 1989: NWA
5. **WORST PROMOTION** - Exactly the opposite of Best Promotion. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1986: AWA 1987: World Class 1988 & 89: AWA
6. **TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR** - Vote for three. Same considerations as Wrestler of the Year. Possible selections: Rockers, Steiners, Hart Foundation, Road Warriors, Doom, Midnight Express, and Southern Boys (plus others). **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1986: Midnight Express (Condrey & Eaton) 1987 & 88: Midnight Express (Lane & Eaton) 1989: Steiner Brothers
7. **MOST OVERRATED** - The most asked question here is "overrated by whom?" The answer is, overrated by YOU. Some suggestions: Sid Vicious, Sting, Jerry Lawler, Stan Hansen, Hulk Hogan, Ultimate Warrior, Terry Funk, Big Van Vader and Greg Valentine. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1986 & 87: Hogan 1988: Dusty Rhodes 1989: Ultimate Warrior
8. **MOST UNDERRATED** - This category has always been the most popular and just a few votes will win it. This year's leading candidates are Ultimate Warrior, Eddie Gilbert, Tito Santana, Dirty White Boy, Brian Pillman, and Rick Rude. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1986: Bret Hart 1987: Curt Hennig 1988: Brad Armstrong 1989: Curt Hennig
9. **MATCH OF THE YEAR** - Simply, which match did you enjoy the most this year, live, on TV or on a PPV. Lots of choices including Hogan vs Warrior from Wrestlemania, Flair vs Eaton from the January syndicated show, Flair vs Luger from the PPV, Steiners vs Nasty Boys from Halloween Havoc, Riger vs Sano (numerous matches), plus others. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1986: Flair vs Windham (2/14 Miami) 1987: Savage vs Scaamboat (3/29 Pontiac, MI) 1988: Flair vs Sting (3/27 Greensboro, NC) 1989: Flair vs Funk (11/15 Troy, NY)
10. **ANNOUNCER OF THE YEAR** - This category is for play by play announcers only. Jim Ross, Vince McMahon, Dave Brown, Chris Cruise, and Lance Russell are favorites here. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1986: Jesse Ventura 1987-89: Jim Ross
11. **COLOR COMMENTATOR OF THE YEAR** - And this one is for the guys who add analysis and color to the broadcasts. Jesse Ventura and Roddy Piper will probably fight it out here with Terry Funk, Bob Caudle, and Paul E. Dangerously as good choices as well. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1987-89: Jesse Ventura
12. **JOBBER OF THE YEAR** - This category is to honor the TV jobbers, though I'm sure some will make political statements by voting for wrestlers like Ted DiBiase and Ric Flair. Lots to choose from with Barry Horowitz, Bob Bradley, Buddy Rose, and others as leading contenders. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1986: Randy & Bill Mulkey 1987: Brady Boone 1988 & 89: Barry Horowitz
13. **ANGLE OF THE YEAR** - By angle, we're talking about the skit or storyline that set up a feud. Leading contenders are sure to be Gilbert entering Memphis, Lawler's car bump, the Black Scorpion, Horsemen turn on Sting, Luger turns babyface, Earthquake splashes Hogan, and DiBiase beats up Dustin Rhodes. There are more of course. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1986: Orndorff turns on Hogan 1987: see feud of the year 1988: Original Midnight Express attacks Midnight Express 1989: Funk attacks Flair after Flair wins NWA title.
14. **FEUD OF THE YEAR** - This pertains to the best series of matches during the past year.

- turns on Hogan 1987: see feud of the year 1988: Original Midnight Express attacks Midnight Express 1989: Funk attacks Flair after Flair wins NWA title.
- 14. FEUD OF THE YEAR** - This pertains to the best series of matches during the past year. The winners should have had at least ten or more matches across the country or territory to qualify. No doubt Flair vs Luger, Horsemen vs Doom, Gilbert vs Lawler, Ultimate Warrior vs Rude, Steiners vs Doom and Steve Austin vs Chris Adams will be considered. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1986: see angle of the year 1987: Lawler vs Rich/Idol 1988: Midnight Express vs Fantastics 1989: Flair vs Funk
- 15. DUMBEST/WORST ANGLE OF THE YEAR** - Those that come to mind immediately are the Sgt Slaughter-Sheik Adnon alliance, Rocky King as a Freebird, JYD as Flair's newest challenger, Buster Douglas as special ref, Davie Meltzer as a jobber for the UWF, and of course the Onita stabbing angle. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1986: Masked Machines in WWF 1987: Ric Flair kisses a mannequin 1988: Return of the Midnight Rider 1989: Dusty Rhodes' common man skits on entering the WWF
- 16. DUMBEST/WORST FEUD OF THE YEAR** - This is for the worst series of matches between two wrestlers or teams. Leading candidates include JYD vs Flair, Slaughter vs Volkoff, Duggan vs Earthquake, Hogan vs Earthquake, plus others. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1988: Beefcake vs Ron Bass 1989: Ultimate Warrior vs Andre the Giant
- 17. WORST WRESTLER OF THE YEAR** - This should provide an endless list of nominees as well. Rookies such as El Gigante are not eligible for this award. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** - 1986: Mike Von Erich 1987: Junk Yard Dog 1988: Ultimate Warrior 1989: Andre the Giant
- 18. BEST BABYFACE** - Cheers, drawing power, acceptability, etc. Should be the factors in making your decision. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1986: Hogan 1987: Hogan 1988: Hogan & Sting (tie) 1989: Hogan
- 19. BEST HEEL:** This should go to the wrestler who has the greatest success in making people hate him. Among the contenders this year will be Eddie Gilbert, Ted DiBiase, Randy Savage, Rick Rude, Colonel DeBeers, Sherri Martel and Black Scorpion. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1986: Michael Hayes 1987: Terry Taylor 1988: Ted DiBiase 1989: Terry Funk
- 20. MANAGER OF THE YEAR** - Jim Cornette has had a lock on this category for the past four years, but his year he may face competition in the form of Bobby Heenan, Scary Sherry, Jonathan Holiday, and Paul E. Dangerously. **PREVIOUS WINNER:** 1986-89: Jim Cornette
- 21. DIPSTICK OF THE YEAR** - This category is pretty well self explanatory. There are several good candidates, though I'd give odd on who wins. You may nominate someone on general principles as well as for a specific incident. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1986: Fritz Von Erich 1987 & 88: Dusty Rhodes 1989: Verne Gagne/AWA
- 22. BEST TV SHOW** - Last year, we made the decision to not include special events like Saturday Night's Main Even and Clash of Champions. This is now for just those regular weekly shows such as WWF Superstars, WTBS World Championship Wrestling, Memphis, Legends of World Class, etc. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1986: Bill Watts presents UWF 1987: Saturday Night's Main Event 1988: Clash of Champions series 1989: World Championship Wrestling (WTBS)
- 23. MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER** - Consider how much the candidate has improved *over the last 12 months*. Leading candidates are: Ultimate Warrior, Brian Pillman, Tracy Smothers, Pat Tanaka, Scott Steiner, Butch Reed, Ron Simmons, and others. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1986: Rick Steiner 1987: Bubba Rogers (now Bossman) 1988: Sting 1989: Lex Luger
- 24. BEST FINISHING MANEUVER** - Actually, this doesn't have to be an actual finisher, but any move that is your favorite. Please include the name of the wrestler who performs the move. Favorites this year should be just about anything the Steiners do, the top rope clothesline of the Road Warriors, Eddie Gilbert's Hot shot, plus many others. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1986: Jake Roberts' DDT 1987: Tanaka & Diamond's slingshot DDT 1988: Owen Hart's Moonsault 1989: Scott Steiner's Frankensteiner
- 25. WORST FINISHER** - Lame boring moves that are painful to watch. Those that come to mind immediately are Hogan's leg bomb, Mean Mark's heart punch, Dusty's elbow, Patera's bearhug/full nelson, and Lawler's fistdrop. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1986-89: Hogan's leg bomb
- 26. BEST INTERVIEW** - Another category that is loaded with good choices. Jim Cornette, Paul E. Dangerously, Terry Funk, Jerry Lawler, Randy Savage, Ric Flair and Bobby Heenan will no doubt all be in the top finishers. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** -1986: Flair 1987-88: Cornette 1989: Funk
- 27. MOST DISGUSTING EVENT** - Without a doubt, the stabbing angle in Puerto Rico should take this category hands down. Second and third choices may be a bit more difficult with PPV screw job finishes, Stan Hansen slobbering tobacco juice, and Art Barr's misconduct in the

Pacific Northwest being among the leaders. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1987: Fritz' handling of Mike's death 1988: Brody's murder 1989: Dusty's Tidy Bowl skit

28. BIGGEST SHOCK - What made your mouth drop when you heard about it? The stabbing incident is high on everyone's list along with Hogan losing the belt cleanly, the Titan layoffs, Eddie Gilbert surfacing in Memphis, Missy & Eddie's divorce, Ole becoming booker and Kevin Von Erich taking over a dead World Class promotion. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1987: Bill Watts sells UWF 1988: Brody's death 1989: Dusty goes to WWF

29. WORST ANNOUNCER - The guys who's voices were made for silent movies ... A lot of them have gone by the wayside, but several were around at some point in the year to qualify for candidacy here. Mark Lowrance, Al Hayes, Gorilla Monsoon and Herb Abrams all come to mind. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1987: David Crockett 1988: Brother Superstar Billy Graham 1989: Lord Al Hayes

30. BEST MAJOR EVENT - This should include all PPV's, Clashes, SNME, and even the Memphis tournament. Since voting runs from November 1989-December 1990, Survivors Series from last year as well as Starrcade are both eligible. **PREVIOUS WINNERS:** 1988: Clash of Champions I 1989: WrestleWar 89

VOTES WILL BE COMPILED STARTING now and running through December 31 as the absolute deadline. As a thank you, those who submit ballots will be given a discount on the 1990 Wrestling Forum Yearbook when published.

MAIL BALLOTS TO: **WRESTLING FORUM**
BOX 65
KNOXVILLE, IL 61448
ATT: YEAR END BALLOTS

IN ADDITION TO VOTING there's some other stuff we're looking for. We'd like to do a profile on the "average" wrestling fan, so if you would also include the answer to some survey questions, we'll compile the results and let you know exactly what the "composite" fan looks like.

AGE

OCCUPATION

SEX

NUMBER OF YEARS YOU'VE BEEN A WRESTLING FAN

NUMBER OF LIVE CARDS ATTENDED THIS YEAR

NUMBER OF HOURS SPENT WATCHING WRESTLING ON TV

APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF MONEY SPENT ON WRESTLING THIS YEAR

NUMBER OF NEWSLETTERS SUBSCRIBED TO

THIS INFORMATION WILL BE used for statistical purposes only and will not be published on an individual basis. In the yearbook we'll give you some interesting graphs (which ought to really be fun if I can figure out how to make the computer do that) and let you know how you stack up against the norm.

WE'RE ALSO LOOKING FOR other contributions to the yearbook. You don't have to do any of these, but we'll give you a wide range of choices:

UNOFFICIAL AWARDS (funny or editorially pointed awards like "MOST LIKELY TO BUY A CHICKEN RANCH AWARD - Terry Taylor - courtesy of Pat Rafferty in last year's Yearbook)

DAVID LETTERMAN STYLE TOP TEN LISTS (top ten reasons Ultimate Warrior runs to the ring, top ten whales on the beach; top ten excuses Hogan has for losing his hair - make up some of your own)

DREAM MATCHES (Okay, you're the promoter and you've been given every wrestler in the world in which to put together a five match card. Use anyone you like)

PEOPLE ARE WRESTLERS, TOO

LAST ISSUE WE BEGAN A twist on our regular *Wrestlers Are People Too* column in which one of the people actually involved in wrestling decided to tell us how it was to work with other various wrestlers/announcers, etc. We continue that column this issue with these inside observations:

LANCE RUSSELL . . . A real gentleman who doesn't take his own hype too seriously. The man knows his business though. Give him just a piece of information about a wrestler and he can fill all sorts of time with just that tidbit. The only way this guy will ever have an ego is if someone leaves him one in a will.

LEX LUGER . . . hard to get close to, but he remembers when he didn't know how to come off the ropes and is willing to offer suggestions – just as long as he's in the mood. Lex's personality goes in cycles, if you know what I mean; one day he's the most friendly guy in the promotion and the next night you don't even want to be on the same planet as him.

MICHAEL HAYES . . . This guy's opinion is that if you don't know the moves by the time you get to the big time, then you shouldn't ought to be there. Too bad he doesn't have the same philosophy for himself. He's hard to work with in the ring and although is very good at ring psychology, his timing is always off. After the matches, he's always too busy to talk with the boys. I'd hate to be a fan who would approach unless my chest size was at least double my waist.

BOBBY EATON . . . Get him going and you can't get him to shut up. Always willing to help a young wrestler with a new move or to explain what he's going to be doing to you before hand so you don't get hurt. Out of all the guys in the NWA when I worked there, this is my favorite guy to work with. I knew I could have a great match and that he'd make me look 100% better than what I am.

SAMOAN FATU . . . This will sound prejudice, but there must be something wrong with these South Pacific guys. They love to see the expression on your face when they land a chop extra hard – not hard enough to seriously hurt you but hard enough to make you think twice about not selling their next move or about confronting them with it in the dressing room.

RICK STEINER . . . This is one of the weirdest guys I've ever met. He can go from the retard he plays to Rhodes scholar in the blink of an eye. He works very tight, but usually always asks how tight his opponent wants him to work. I never worked with him in the ring, but no one who did had the guts to tell him to work light. It was kind of a status symbol to survive a match with Rick (or Scott or both) without any major complications or compound fractures.

JIM HERD . . . He listens to opinions other than his own. Rarely uses them, but always listens. If you're too far off base, you find yourself becoming a job boy fast. He's the consummate boss; make you think you can trust him, then uses what you tell him to hang you. I'm glad my part in the promotion wasn't any bigger than what it was because I don't think I could take this guy day in and day out.

WRESTLING'S FUTURE ON TV

You've no doubt seen those TV shows where, in front of a studio audience, an interviewer comes out and has his guest tell all about some amazing discovery or invention. The guest heralds the greatness of the thing to no end and the interviewer acts like he's never heard anything quite so amazing.

It may be some product that gets rid of that annoying cellulite. Or it may take spots out of a hundred dollar shirt. Or maybe you can wax your car with it so that bird doo-doo doesn't stick, use it as an all purpose cleaner, and then turn around and use it to paint your teeth white!

You've seen them. They are commercials that are signified as half hour to hour TV shows. There is no other advertising during these shows except that several times during the show they do make apoint of telling you how you can get some of the product they're hawking. They are called "Infomercials" combining information in a commercial format.

The FCC recently adopted a new policy concerning these type of programs. Originally, Congress had asked the FCC to investigate charges that some cartoon shows were nothing more than program length commercials for toys. "He-Man" and "GI Joe" were prime targets.

The FCC had previously defined program length commercials as material "so interwoven with, and in essence auxiliary to, the sponsor's advertising." The new definition "appeared to be in harmony with the traditional definition."

So what does all this have to do with wrestling?

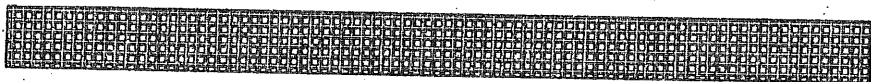
Simply this: what is the purpose of the WWF Superstars of Wrestling? Or of World Championship Wrestling? Or of the live Memphis show?

These shows have one purpose: **SELL TICKETS!** Angles set up feuds and feuds are what bring people to the arenas. Feuds are what intice people to shell out money for Pay Per View events. And each time the Titan cameras pan a crowd and you see people eating WWF cookies or playing with WWF dolls, be assured that these people were given these item free and that they are about to become part of Titan's advertising strategy, like it or not.

Many TV stations now require these Infomercials to carry a disclaimer at the beginning stating that this is a program length commercial and that the time has been paid for by the sponsor. We wonder how much longer it will be before wrestling programs are required to carry the same type of disclaimer.

When this happens, how much longer will it be before TV stations realize that the PPV steals their potential audience, robbing them of valuable rating points. How much longer will TV stations sit around and collect measly percentages of small houses while the promotions get rich from the PPV revenues? How much longer until the TV stations tell promotions to either send some of the profits their way, or get the show off the air?

The FCC did not target wrestling shows with this ruling, but one must wonder how much longer until someone figures out that the purpose of a TV wrestling show is not to entertain as much as it is to sell something else. When that day comes, we will see major changes in the way wrestling is produced on TV.



ANDRE FOUND NOT GUILTY...

Andre the Giant has been found not guilty of assault charges stemming from an incident last year when he attacked a camera man in Cedar Rapids, IA after losing to Ultimate Warrior in ten seconds. Andre thought that the camera man had filmed his match for the local news. Andre was found not guilty of assual, but was fined \$100 for his misconduct and was ordered to pay restitution for the camera that was damaged in the scuffle.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

by Sean B. Hendrick

MAYBE IT'S JUST ME, but I don't think so.

WOULDN'T YOU THINK that if you were an employee of a company that you helped build to a very strong market position through self sacrifice and at the expense of your own personal credibility that you could expect some backing from the company?

WOULDN'T YOU THINK that if you were a loyal company person who stuck it out through the hard times and put in overtime whenever asked that it would count for something?

DON'T YOU THINK THAT if you spent several years establishing an individual identity and style that is the envy of everyone in your profession that that would be something that your boss would look on favorably?

IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO any of these, that would seem reasonable.

THEN WHY ARE THERE MORE jokes being made about Ric Flair's present situation than comments in regards to his dedication to the Crockett family and the NWA and how he is presently being paid in return for his years of service? Will Ric be remembered as leaving the sport as the greatest of all time or will he be viewed as a hanger on who had to resort to some crazy gimmick to last a while longer after losing the belt?

IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO SEE Ric Flair leave the sport in the same way as O.J. Simpson and Joe Namath did in LA. Both on bad knees and shadows of their former selves. Or to have him viewed as George Foreman is as an overaged clown trying to hang on for one last big payday.

I SAY FORGET ABOUT A NEW gimmick for Ric. Forget about grouping him with the Horsemen any longer. Don't even worry about giving him a fight for a belt.

LET HIM BE INVOLVED IN A hot feud and put on his incredible performance every night he is out there. And when the time has come to step aside because he can no longer cut it in the ring, can anyone think of a more credible announcer from both the standpoint of mike talent and knowledge of the sport?

I DON'T KNOW IF WE FULLY understand Ric's present position or if this is what happens when you talk to Titan, but if Ric turns out to be a great one who just fades away after an incredible career - the likes of which we may never see again - it will be a shame.

HE HAS DONE ALL THAT HAS been asked of him and personally I think he deserves far better than he is getting from the Turner group.

SCATTERED THOUGHTS... Why does everyone worry about the Ultimate Warrior's drawing power? It's not like he has been the center of attention or been involved in a hot issue as of yet (Does anyone remember back to when Hogan needed big help to draw a crowd? Remember the famous tag match with Gene Okerlund?)...Isn't it funny to see Warrior tagging with the Road Warriors since he was given that name as a slam against the Roadies?



with help from Bill Burnett

TERRY FUNK IS THE NEW unified champion after beating Jerry Lawler for the title on the 11/5 Memphis card. As you could expect, the match was your typical wild Memphis brawl with just about everything under the sun happening. The ending featured Lawler doing three consecutive fistdrops off the ropes and then going for a pin. Funk kicked out at the 2 and 5/8 count. They did a ref bump and then Lawler gave Funk a piledriver. Eddie Gilbert ran in with a chain and swung at Lawler, but Jerry moved and the chain hit Funk instead. Lawler then went after Eddie and beat him up a while. Eddie Marlin came out to make sure Eddie didn't interfere any more, but Funk had recovered by this time, found the chain that Eddie dropped and used it to clobber Lawler. The ref came to and tolled the three count on Jerry.

WE ALSO HAVE A NEW Southern heavyweight champion. Eddie Gilbert took the belt from Jeff Jarrett on the 10/29 card in which Jeff put the belt up against Eddie's hair. Little doubt as to who was going to win that match, huh? Anyway, it featured the standard Memphis stuff including chains and ref bumps, but Eddie added a fireball -- it hit Jeff in the tummy but still managed to incombobulate him -- and won the title. On the 11/3 TV show, Eddie as to have wrestled Chris Champion (who's back and out of his shell), but he and the other heels were busy celebrating with noise makers and silly string and confetti in the studio. Eddie hadn't even bothered to get into his wrestling gear. They ran the bell and Gilbert was counted out, but did not lose the title even though those are the rules here in Memphis. Must have been a non title match.

IN CASE YOU'VE BEEN holding your breath, wondering who Bruno's mystery man was on the 10/29 card (they led us to believe it was Steve "Dr. Death" Williams), it turned out to be Jeff Gaylord who wrestled Lawler. So much for that extended push. Gaylord was relegated to the opening bout on the next two Monday nights.

TESSA, BILL DUNDEE'S valet that left for nurse's school, is back, but we're not sure for how long. She came out with him on the 11/3 show and the feud with her and the Dirty White Girl look like it will resume. But in the meantime, DWG is busy with other stuff too.

DURING A MATCH BETWEEN Brickhouse Brown and Dirty White Boy, Doug Gilbert ran in and they did a stuff piledriver on Brick's valet Icee Hott. This led to Brick bringing out "Special Package" who turned out to be his bodybuilder sister who they will call Sweet Georgia Brown.

BRICK'S FEUD WITH DWB continues and was turned up another notch on the TV show. During an interview, DWB claimed that he did not deliver the piledriver to Icee Hott but instead, she had just fallen. Brick came out and attacked him, but Doug Gilbert snuck in from behind and clobbered him with a chair. Danny Davis made the save and helped carry Brick off. This however, set up still another of the never ending connecting feuds.

DAVIS AND BRICKHOUSE were supposed to wrestle Gilbert and DWB for the tag titles on TV during that hour. But Brickhouse was incapacitated and Davis had no partner. Ken Wayne, Davis' old Nightmare partner came out and offered to help. They had already announced these two facing each other on the upcoming Monday night card, but Wayne said that helping his old friend was important and that he wanted another belt in addition to his Junior Heavyweight belt. The match was on, but it wasn't long before Wayne started missing tags and wandering away when Davis was getting the snot beat out of him. Pretty soon, Davis hauled off and punched Wayne and Ken plus the other two heels tripped on Davis until Brickhouse made the save.

JOEY MAGS IS GETTING somewhat of a renewed push. He wrestled Jerry Lawler in the opening match on TV on 11/3. He worked as a not-so-subtle heel, pulling hair and punching whenever he got the chance. Danny Davis came out after the match and chastised his pupil for using roughhouse tactics, but Mags just put him off. On the 11/10 TV show, they announced that Mags and Davis would be meeting on the 11/12 Memphis card. Both came out and they told each other they understood why. The match was to determine the number one challenger for Ken Wayne's junior title. Davis expressed hesitancy towards the match, saying that he didn't think Mags was quite ready for it yet. He hadn't taught him everything he knew. Mags played the cocky, arrogant kid saying that he was ready right then. Mags had a squash match immediately after the interview in which he wrestled as a complete heel. After the match, Davis went to the ring

to criticize and when he turned his back on Mags (you can see this one coming, right?), Mags tossed him over the top rope.

PRIOR TO THE FUNK-LAWLER title match, Lawler rewrote a little NWA history. He claimed that Funk had held the NWA World title on *seven* occasions. I'm sure Ric Flair and Harley Race were interested in that bit of history.

AS MENTIONED EARLIER, CHRIS Champion is back, sans the turtle suit. He's wearing his hair slicked back in a pony tail something like Steven Segal of "Hard To Kill" fame. Marlin has been quoted by newspapers as saying that if he is found guilty of the sexual misconduct charges filed against him by several under-age girls, he will be fired. As of now, though, he will still work for the USWA.

THESE GUYS DON'T SEEM TO be able to run a card without giving each and every match some sort of name. The card in Memphis on 11/5, for example, featured an "out of the audience" match, a "revenge" match, an "ultra grudge" match, a "special grudge" match (which I assume is just one step under the Ultra grudge match), a "Twilight Zone" match, a "loser throws the first punch" match plus the World unified title match. The 11/12 card is similar in names: A "boxing-catfight" match (DWG vs Sweet Georgia Brown), a "coward waves the flag" match (Eddie Gilbert vs Jeff Jarrett with Sam Bass-Lowe and Eddie Marlin in the respective corners), a "Grab for the Green" match (a battle royal with money in a bag on top of a pole), a "loser of the fall leaves USWA for one year" match (Sheiks Fabiano & Hussein plus Samurai vs Dundee and Lawler) and of course the standard "non sanctioned barbed wire" match (Eddie Gilbert vs Lawler). What I wanna know is who comes up with all these names!!!

FOR THOSE OF YOU WONDERING what an "out of the audience" match is, it stems from an incident where a local band gave Jerry Lawler a special guitar as an award. Lawler was presented with the guitar from the Nunnery Boys on the 11/30 card in Memphis. Two guys in masks ran out and started smashing the guitars and other stuff (they were set up to do a concert it looked like) and it turned out to be Eddie Gilbert and Sam Bass-Lowe. They hit one of the members of the band, Tom Nunnery and they couldn't have made a better choice. Turns out (as Lawler said he found out later) that old Tom had snuck off to Texas and enrolled in Chris Adams' wrestling school and he knew how to wrestle. Because of this and his desire to exact some revenge on the heels for smashing up things including him, he got to wrestle Sam Bass-Lowe on the 11/5 Memphis card.

THE 11/10 SHOW OPENED with a match that was scheduled for a sixty minute time limit (with other matches standing by just in case) for the tag team titles. It had DWB and Doug Gilbert going against Bill and Jamie Dundee. The match didn't last long and had Bill being posted and blading. Tojo Yamamoto came out and tossed salt in his face and that led to the pin.

THE OFFICIAL TOP TEN hasn't changed much in the past two weeks. Here's the most current ranking they give: 10-Terry Gordy; 9-Paul Orndorff; 8-Dick Slater; 7-Dick Murdoch 6-Rick Steamboat; 5-Bam Bam Bigelow; 4-Steve Williams; 3-Jeff Jarrett; 2-Jerry Lawler; 1-Eddie Gilbert; and the champions, as mentioned earlier is Terry Funk.

JERRY LAWLER ALSO HAS a new 900 number, but I can't tell you what's on it. For some reason, there's parts of the country you can't dial it from and I guess this is one of them.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

AS SPECULATED LAST ISSUE, the Rockers have defeated the Hart Foundation for the tag team championships. The change occurred October 30 in Indianapolis (we had guessed it would happen in Fort Wayne) as part of an NBC taping. It was a two of three falls match and Bret Hart did the job in both of the falls his team lost. We can further speculate that Jim Neidhart is going to be blamed for the loss even though Bret did the job. That will allow Bret to get the push he's been promised as a singles wrestler and Neidhart, who was pink slipped last month, can now move into the office or to the announcer's booth. The match was reportedly very good and went somewhere in the 30-40 minute range.

THE ROCKERS WILL PROBABLY continue to feud with Power and Glory, now with the tag team belts at stake. This means the Rockers will be winning their matches with Power and Glory at house shows by either pinfall, DQ or COR. I don't look for a title change here until probably the Royal Rumble PPV in January or perhaps (though unlikely) one of the December TV tapes. After that, we can expect a feud between Power and Glory and the Road Warriors which should culminate at Wrestlemania.

IT SEEMS THE ROAD WARRIORS always come up on the short end of the stick when it comes to setting up feuds. A couple of years ago, they did an angle with Barbarian and Warlord where they got beat up in the middle of a weight lifting contest. Barbarian and Warlord decided that being the fall guys (pardon the intended pun) in an upcoming series of scaffold matches against the Legion of Doom was no the best career move they could make. So instead, they left the NWA, leaving the Road Warriors without the anticipated revenge.

NOW, HISTORY HAS REPEATED itself. Demolition, after having done a run in on the Roadies and left them for dead, have given notice to the WWF. Their final days will be the first week of December.

AXE AND SMASH (BILL EADIE & Barry Darsow) had been planning to take their gimmick to Japan. Recent developments, namely Titan's mandate of them having to wear masks instead of face paint, pretty well sunk any chances of that. Eadie and Darsow will leave the company and continue plans for the Japan tour with a similar gimmick. Fans in Japan are knowledgeable enough to recognize them as Demolition without having to call them that. In the meantime, another team has destroyed the Roadies on TV and with this short of notice, will probably not get the change for revenge. I look for the booking of Survivor Series to be such that Demolition will be as buried as what they will allow, but I don't look for utter destruction of the gimmick either. Crush (Brian Adams) did not give notice, and Titan's plans for him are uncertain.

NBC HAS CANCELLED PLANS FOR the Saturday Night's Main Event scheduled on 11/24. The show was taped already and the angles were to compliment what happens at Survivor's on the 22nd. So, NBC has agreed to give Titan a Prime Time special on Friday the 23rd at 10:00 eastern time (9:00 central). The only difference will be the format. SNME was taped as a 90 minute show and the Prime Time show is only an hour long. This doesn't sound like much of a difference, especially when you consider all the things Titan does to fill the 90 minutes of a SNME (anyone for sausage stuffing?), but the tag team match went long and so did a match taped with Ultimate Warrior vs Ted DiBiase. Reportedly the tapes will be re-edited so they will fit in between commercials. I'm told this won't be any kind of a problem at all.

MEANWHILE, THINGS CONTINUE to lead towards Survivor's Series. The USA network will broadcast a countdown show which should review all the feuds they're using to set up the show several times in the week prior to Survivor's.

HOGAN'S MOVIE IS RUNNING BOTH over budget and behind schedule. He was to have made a midwest swing on Titan's weekend shows this weekend (including stops in Peoria and Champaign Illinois), but he's been pulled off those shows. The local outlet for the WWF in Peoria

Peoria are reportedly upset (according to a local newspaper) because they had been promised Hogan. The station, WHOI-TV, shares in the revenue generated by live gates and they have been unhappy with the live gates for the past few appearances. Hogan was promised so that their share of the revenue would pick up (in exchange for a good slot on Sunday mornings for the WWF Superstars show), and they are not happy that he was announced for the show and then pulled off. One of the reasons is the way it was done. Hogan began a few weeks ago by doing a localized interview. When the decision was made to pull him, they didn't say on TV that he had been pulled, they just changed the ads and interviews. WHOI is concerned that people will go to the show expecting to see Hogan and be rather miffed when he doesn't show. A spokesman for WHOI was quoted as saying that Titan has promised to bring Hogan back as soon as possible, but further problems with Titan could jeopardize their working relations.

THIS IS THE SECOND TIME Hogan has cancelled out of Champaign. A Saturday night show there with the University of Illinois in session could draw well in the 16,000 Assembly Hall there. Co-promoters in that city are also not happy with the developments.

IT'S OFFICIAL...YOU MAY now address Jesse Ventura as "Your Honor, the Mayor." Jesse won election to the mayor's office in Brooklyn Park, MN this past Tuesday. This guy's resume is starting to look very impressive: AWA tag team champion, WWF announcer, movie star, Tampa Bay color commentator and now mayor. Only in America can a heel be elected to public office! Congrats go out to him.

JONATHAN HOLIDAY IS SUPPOSED to be a new manager on board with the WWF. Well, at least he got a tryout. We don't know if they've accepted him or not. According to sources, he's going to be strictly comedy and, he should be a legitimate contender for manager of the year next year according to what I've been told. He'll be managing all the jobbers like Buddy Rose and the Black Demon. From what I've been told, he's already done some interview segments where he talks about searching all over the world for a wrestler the caliber of Demon and finally found him in Ireland. Demon then gets the mike and starts rattling off Spanish (Demon is Jose Luis Rivera). As for Rose, he'll help him play up the 217 pound gimmick (as if Buddy needs any help playing it up). Irony, don't you think, that the WWF was able to come up with their own "Black Demon" who loses a lot? Think about it.

BRUTUS BEEFCAKE IS WELL ENOUGH to actually be doing some personal appearances for Titan. He helped with the grand opening of a toy store in the Los Angeles area recently and reports are he looks good. Readers who saw him tell me that his face is a little puffy and that he's grown a fu-Manchu moustache and dyed his hair blond, but other than that, you really can't tell that he was so close to death. Titan folks tell me that the reason he's done the stuff to alter his appearance has to do with him doing some stunt work and doubling for Hulk Hogan in Hogan's movie.

THE BEST SOURCE THAT I HAVE on the subject tells me that Titan is definitely interested in Jim Cornette (not so sure about Stan Lane), but Cornette is not even remotely interested in going to the WWF. The Titan source tells me that they would give a whole lot to get Cornette, but what else is new.

CURT HENNIG MAY BE IN A LITTLE hot water with the front office. Curt's got a reputation for having a bad temper anyway, but he's been involved in two incidences in as many months that have agents and Vince concerned. The first happened last month when he and Boris Zhukov got into a dressing room altercation. No one is saying what it was all about, but Curt ended up on the worse end of things though not seriously hurt. The most recent happened when Curt and Kerry Von Erich brawled back to the dressing room and continued to push and shove each other after they were out of the audience's sight. Curt got mad and didn't even bother to shower. He just pulled on a pair of jeans over his singlet and left. It doesn't matter how good of a wrestler you are; if you keep fighting with other wrestlers backstage, the promotion will be forced to make a decision about your future. Curt has been Vince's fair-haired boy for quite some time, but his attitude will definitely change that.

WHAT'S IT BEEN? MAYBE two years since we've been predicting that Virgil is going to turn babyface on Ted DiBiase? I keep saying that if we keep predicting it, it'll happen eventually and we'll look like we're super-smart when it does happen. Well, Titan is testing the idea. In a couple of cities where Ted has wrestled Dusty Rhodes, Ted gets pinned when Virgil's interference backfires. After the match they argue and Ted tells Virgil to shine his boots. Virgil takes the towel and acts like he's going to, and then chokes DiBiase with it before exiting. Response is being gauged, and from the two reports I have, one city gave him a good response while the other was just so-so. I don't know why they bother with experiments because Vince has proven time and time again that he can get an audience to react any way he wants them to just by

manipulating them. I guess maybe they do it for the wrestlers' benefit as much as to see how the "turn" is received. In most other cities, when they don't do this angle, Ted ends up pinning Dusty which I'm sure just makes the Dream pleased as punch.

THERE WILL BE SOME CHANGES in the teams for Survivor's especially with Rude leaving. Mean Mark is supposed to be the mystery partner, but I've also talked with people who think that we may see one last match with Andre as well. I talked with the front office today (11/14) and they said that they knew there would be changes, but had no idea what they were.

JIMMY SNUKA WILL BE staying with the promotion after all. I think we listed him in the departures last issue. Haku, though, has given notice, and his last day will be just after Survivor's. He has plans to go to Japan and stay at home with his family. He's telling people that he can make as much working just a few weeks per year in Japan as he can working full time for Titan. One thing's for sure - if he works part time, there's less of a chance he'll bite somebody else in a bar.

BETTER HOPE THAT YOUR kids don't have Wrestling Buddies on their Christmas list. These are stuffed dolls in the form of WWF wrestlers that kids can bodyslam, pildrive and clothesline to their heart's content. They're selling like crazy and most stores are having problems keeping them in stock.

THIS JUST IN...TITAN HAS reached a verbal agreement with Super World Sports in Japan for a talent exchange. Under the agreement, they would run two big shows per year, exchange talent on a regular basis and 10 minutes per week of the Titan shows would be reserved for Japanese wrestlers. This could be the biggest promotional coup in history.

TITAN IS TALKING WITH the Nasty Boys. Knobs and Sags were to have met with the NWA today (11/14) to discuss their contract and if things didn't work out, they were to call Titan and let them know.

SURVIVORS SERIES LESS than a week away and there are still something like 5000 tickets remaining.

LOOKS LIKE MEAN MARK'S gimmick will be some sort of an undertaker.

TOM ROBINSON BENEFIT SHOW RESULTS COURTESY OF JOE MANNION

The Blade pinned BT Express (D)...Jerry Lawler pinned Eddie Gilbert (B)...Stan Lane & Eddie Gilbert beat Cactus Jack & Terry Funk (A)...NOTES: local wrestlers filled out the card. Bobby Eaton was unable to work the main event due to a leg injury. Eddie Gilbert, who turned babyface when he clobbered his manager after losing to Lawler, volunteered to be Lane's partner. All participants worked hard, especially Cactus Jack. End came when Eaton tossed the tennis racket to Lane who bashed Cactus Jack. A world's record may have been set for number of managers on a card as nine different managers worked. Best of the bunch - besides Cornette - was *Wrestling World's* columnist Stately Wayne Manor. He managed Gilbert and took two great bumps along with good working of the crowd.

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

10/20 PHILADELPHIA (WWF) - courtesy of **DAN DELIBERTY**...Shane Douglas pinned Brooklyn Brawler (C+)...Warlord beat Koko (C-)...Snuka pinned Black Demon (C-)...Kerry DCOR Hennig (B)...Harts beat Rhythm & Blues (B)...Davey Boy Smith defeated Haku (C+)...Legion of Doom/Warrior beat Demolition (C+)...**NOTES:** Attendance: 7000...Ultimate Warrior got best reaction of the night, but not a sustained one like Hogan gets...Black Demon subbed for Akeem...main event was an elimination match...Demolition was eliminated one after the other...babyface team never lost a member...whole card went just over 2 hours including an R&B concert.

10/25 TORONTO (NWA) - courtesy of **DEBBIE MURPHY**...Juicer beat Horowitz...Tom Zenk over Johnny K-9...Nick DeCarlo pinned Tony Martin...Master Blasters downed Tim Horner/Mike Rotundo...Brian Pillman pinned Black Scorpion...Freebirds over Rich/Morton...Lex Luger pinned Sid Vicious...**NOTES:** Attendance: 800...not a great card, especially with the locals working some of the opening matches...Morton and Rich were booed and couldn't sway the audience to their side so they ended up playing heels while Hayes and Garvin played babyfaces...Dusty and Flair did the same thing here four or five years ago...this Black Scorpion worked like Horowitz, but not for sure who he was.

10/26 EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ (WWF) - courtesy of **BILL MCCORMACK**...Santana pinned Red Demon...Bossman over Barbarian...Slaughter beat Volkoff...Dustin Rhodes pinned Black Bart...Rockers defeated Power and Glory...Ron Garvin beat Mike Sharpe...Randy Savage over Ultimate Warrior by COR...**NOTES:** Attendance: 8000...Sherri wore an "X-rated" costume at ringside and was involved in about 50% of the match...Santana worked tremendously hard...Rockers vs Power and Glory was best match of night...Janetty did about 75% of the ring work, but Michaels looks like his knee is healing nicely...Rude was originally scheduled against Bossman but his absence was explained by his "suspension."

11/3 ORANGE COUNTY, CA (WWF) - courtesy of **MARK GROSS**...Shane Douglas defeated Boris Zhukov (C-)...Warlord beat Superfly (ZZ)...Orient Express pinned Bushwhackers (D-)...Duggan DCOR Martel (ZZZ)...Koko pinned Black Bart (C+)...Roadies beat Demolition (B-)...Kerry by DQ over Hennig (A)...**NOTES:** Attendance: 5750...in main event, there was a ref bump, then Hennig took padding off turnbuckles and rammed Kerry's head in to it...he put Kerry in a perfect-plex but the ref wouldn't count because he saw turnbuckle undone...Beefcake did a personal appearance at a toy store's grand opening earlier in the day...

miscellaneous stuff

CONGRATULATIONS TO RON AND CHERYL LEMIEUX of Lake Mary, Florida on the birth of the a son!!! Ron does the bulletin Arena Report that we mention from time to time. Understand that Mom and son are doing fine but Papa's a basket case.

KEITH ALIOTO AND ANDY VINEBERG have a wrestling talk show on WUMD -AM 560 in Baltimore from 4-6 pm on Sundays. Callers are welcome at (301) 455-3067 or (301) 455-3191. They are looking for guests also.

TWO THINGS I FORGOT TO MENTION earlier...on the stuff we're looking for for the yearbook, I'm also looking to put together the first ever **WRESTLING RULE BOOK**. We need you to come up with the rules though. We're looking for contributions like this: "Any time a cake or a pie appears in the interview area, said cake or pie will wind up on the face of one of the participants. Got the idea?

SUBSCRIPTION DRIVE INFORMATION!!! Here's what you've been waiting on. All you have to do is get someone to subscribe to *Wrestling Forum* and you win. For every four issues ordered by your friend, you get one additional issue added to your subscription. Get a friend to subscribe for four months, and you get one month free. Get six friends to subscribe for four months and you get the next *SIX MONTHS* free! Be sure to have whoever include your name with their new subscription order so that you get proper credit. Get busy, though, the offer ends at the end of December.

ROYAL DUNCAN OF PEORIA, IL says he's been doing some house cleaning and as a result, has a bunch of old *Forums* to get rid of. If you're interested in them, you can call him at (309) 691-2772.

I JUST WENT BACK OVER THE YEAR end awards and noticed that I don't have a lot of suggestions mentioned in the Rookie of the Year category. I'll try and have a more complete list by next issue. By the way, if you'd like a pre-printed ballot, just send a long self addressed stamped envelope and I'll drop one in the mail to you.

A GROUP OF FANS ARE TAKING a tour of Japan from January 1 through about January 10. The trip will include five or six cards including a couple from All Japan and a couple from New Japan. The cost of the trip is \$1850.00 which includes all expenses except sightseeing and food. If you want information, there still is a few openings available. Call Steve Gerber at (714) 585-3045 or Andy Dragos, daytime number on west coast is (213) 557-4350 or evenings at (818) 997-3139.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE something you want to buy, sell or trade, we do provide free listings here for subscribers only. Just send your request along (an index card is best) and we'll publish it as we have the space available.

THERE WAS ANOTHER FANTASY WEEKEND for fans this past weekend in Windsor Locks, CT area. We received information on the get together two days after it was over. The press release received here listed Ken Patera, Paul Orndorff, Terry Funk, Moondog Spot, Black Venus and Misty Blue as scheduled to appear.

WELL, THERE YOU HAVE IT...the very first issue of *Wrestling Forum* produced on a computer (subtitled: The Cornfield Steps into the Twentieth Century). We'll be back in two weeks with an issue that's sure to be busting at the seams with info. Until then, see ya.now if I can just figure out how to get this stuff to print out.....

WRESTLING FORUM V5121

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STILL OLD FASHIONED...AT LEAST FOR A WHILE.

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